

Mr. LACROIX: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not wish to interfere with you moving a resolution, but you are talking to nothing. There is an order of business waiting that we should deal with. You have a concluding resolution?

Mr. LACROIX: Yes. Red represents the English race and white, the French race. It is a unique and original disposition which well symbolizes the particular ethnical situation that prevails in Canada. It is also a simple design being composed of the two colours universally acknowledged as distinguishing our two great races. My insistence in asking for a distinctive national flag does not come from a desire to put forward a movement in favour of something that could be qualified as un-British.

Asking for a purely Canadian flag does not constitute an act of hostility towards Great Britain; it simply tends to symbolize in the future Canadian flag the independence, the sovereignty and the equality asserted in an Act adopted by the Westminster parliament, the famous statute which proclaims that Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa, are autonomous nations enjoying an equal status and in no way subordinate to anyone among them in any domestic or foreign matters. It merely consists in exercising the prerogative of a free and grown-up nation. Therefore, who in this committee could logically object to it? Moreover, I am not the only one to think so, because Mr. T. S. Ewart, 6 Lakeview Terrace, Ottawa, a prominent lawyer of this city, had set up, prior to the last federal elections, a questionnaire which was sent on to each candidate, and in a letter which he sent to Mr. J. S. Lessard, of St. Joseph de Beauce, in the province of Quebec, dated June 24, 1945, he stated as follows:—

You will be interested to know that immediately after nominations were made for the federal election we sent a questionnaire to every candidate. I enclose to you a copy of it, and I have put the result in percentages after each question. This is very satisfactory and shows the thought of the candidates on the subject. I would show, too, I think the estimate of the thought of the candidate's constituents.

The question put up to each candidate during the last elections reads as follows:—

1. Would you advocate the adoption of a national flag for Canada?
Yes—95 per cent No—3.75 per cent
2. If so, have you any preference as to its design?
Distinctively Canadian—41.24 per cent
Include maple leaf—16.25 per cent
Red ensign—3.75 per cent
Include union jack—7.5 per cent.

There cannot be any doubt that the general feeling in this country clearly shows a sentiment for the choice of a distinctive national flag. In thinking so I think that I am not the only one. If you go through the book which has been published recently entitled *Canadian Army at War*, you will find on page 25 that the flag which was chosen for the first Canadian army at war when they started to fight at Normandy did not include the union jack. The flag is there, and I think what was chosen by General Crerar should be considered by ourselves.

May I add also that I am most sure—and I am using these words very carefully—that the province of Quebec will never accept the red ensign with a union jack on it. We will continue to use our flags but will never accept it.

As I feel convinced that the choice of a distinctive national flag is to meet with defeat in this committee and that such a decision will not be representative of the public opinion which more and more favours the suppression of the union jack in our national flag, I beg leave to ask the chairmen of the committee not to allow the report, if any, of the committee to be brought before